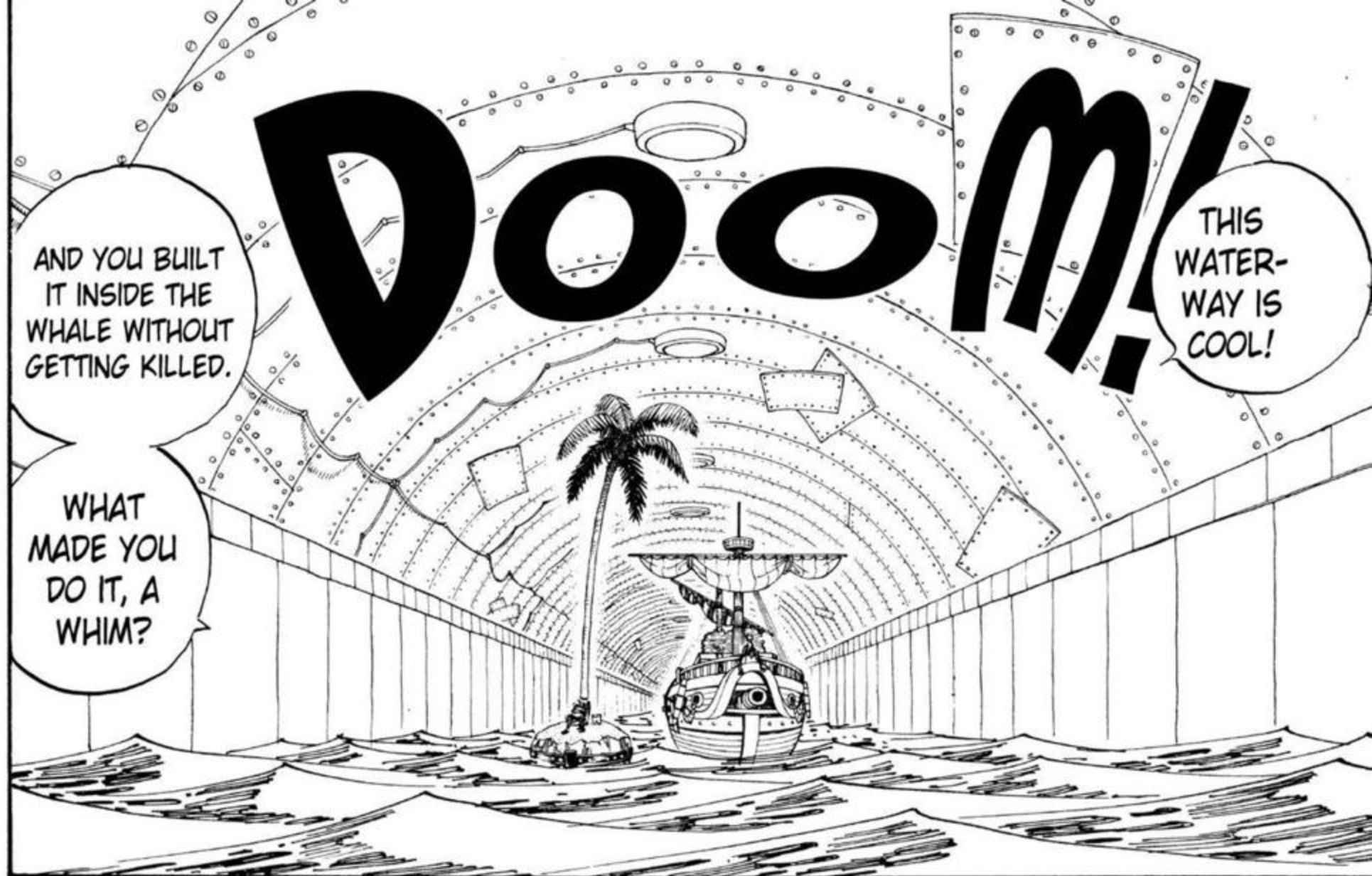


Chapter 104:

CAPE PROMISE





AND YOU BUILT
IT INSIDE THE
WHALE WITHOUT
GETTING KILLED.

WHAT
MADE YOU
DO IT, A
WHIM?

THIS
WATER-
WAY IS
COOL!



THEN
BE OUR
SHIP'S
DOCTOR!

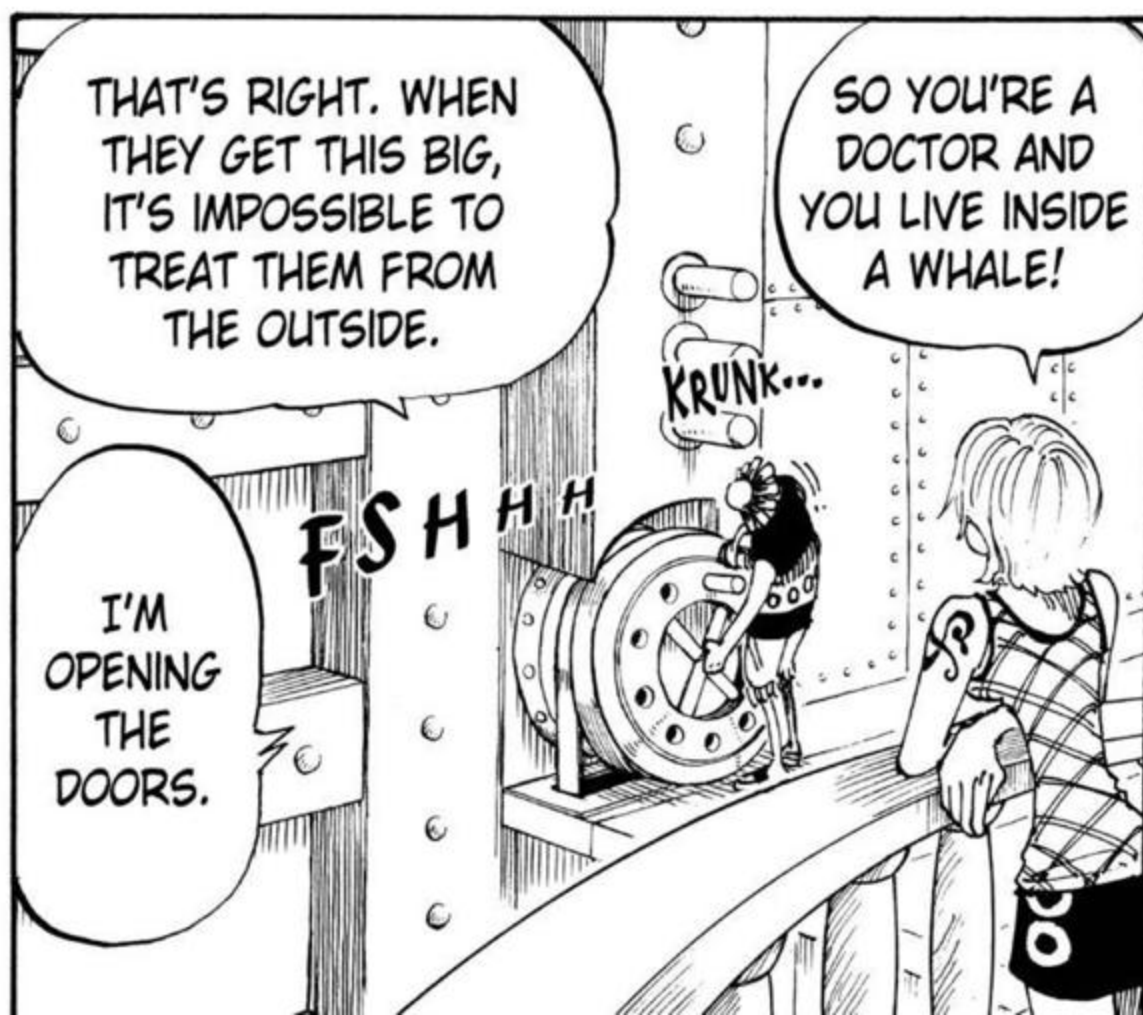
A SHIP'S
DOCTOR!?
REALLY!?



I EVEN
SPENT A
FEW YEARS
AS A SHIP'S
DOCTOR.

I MAY NOT
LOOK IT, BUT I'M A
PHYSICIAN. I RAN A
CLINIC ON THE CAPE
YEARS AGO.

A WHIM?
YES, A
DOCTOR'S
WHIM.



THAT'S RIGHT. WHEN
THEY GET THIS BIG,
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO
TREAT THEM FROM
THE OUTSIDE.

SO YOU'RE A
DOCTOR AND
YOU LIVE INSIDE
A WHALE!

I'M
OPENING
THE
DOORS.

F S H H H

KRUNK...

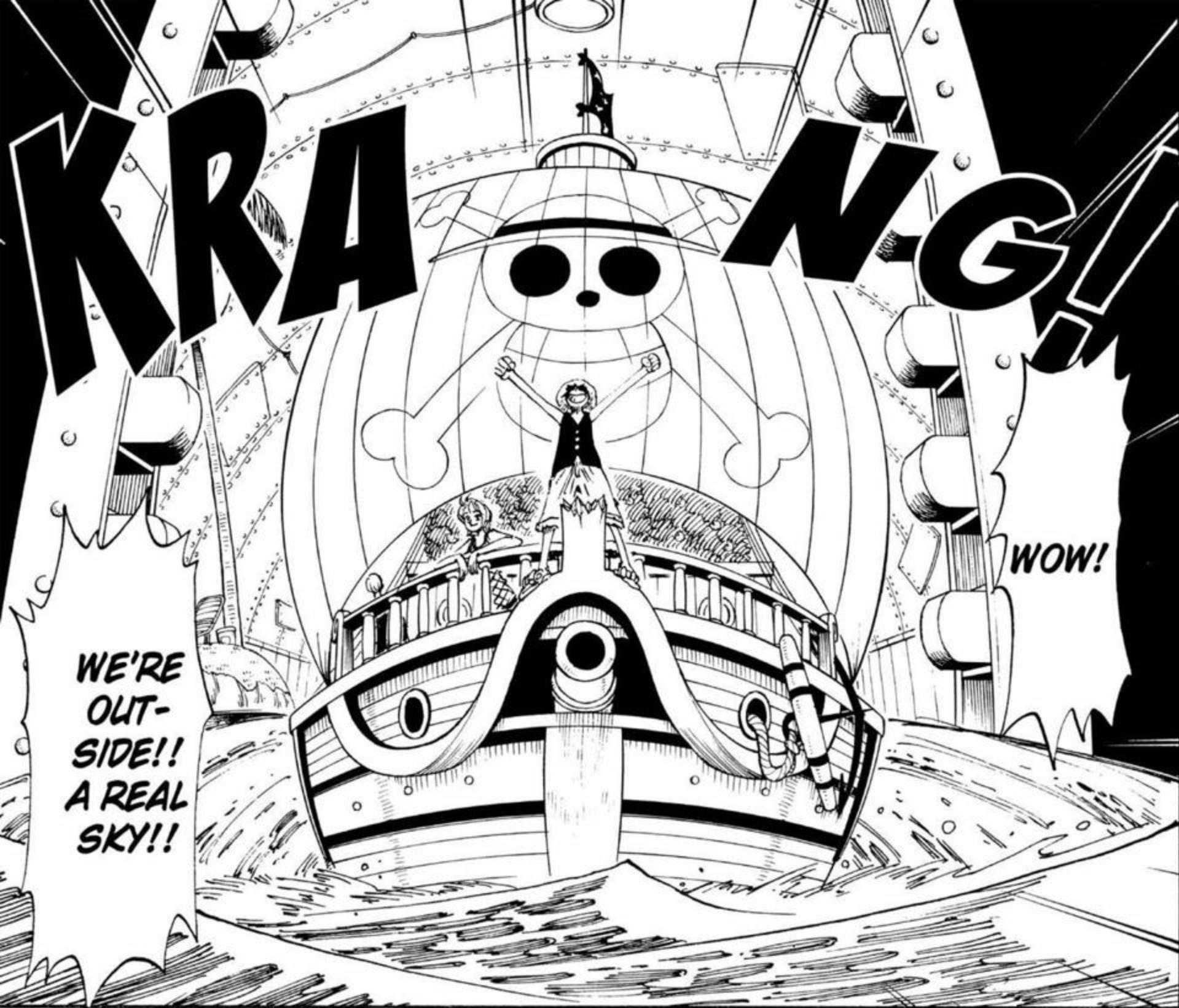


I'M TOO OLD
TO LOOK AFTER
A BUNCH OF
RECKLESS
YOUNG FOOLS.

RIDICU-
LOUS.

KANK

KANK



WE'RE
OUT-
SIDE!!
A REAL
SKY!!

WOW!



A
SEA
OF
GAS-
TRIC
ACID!?

AGH!

WHAT
IS
THIS!?



IT SEEMS,
MR. 9, THAT
THOSE
PIRATES...

...
KNOCKED
US OUT.

SPLASH

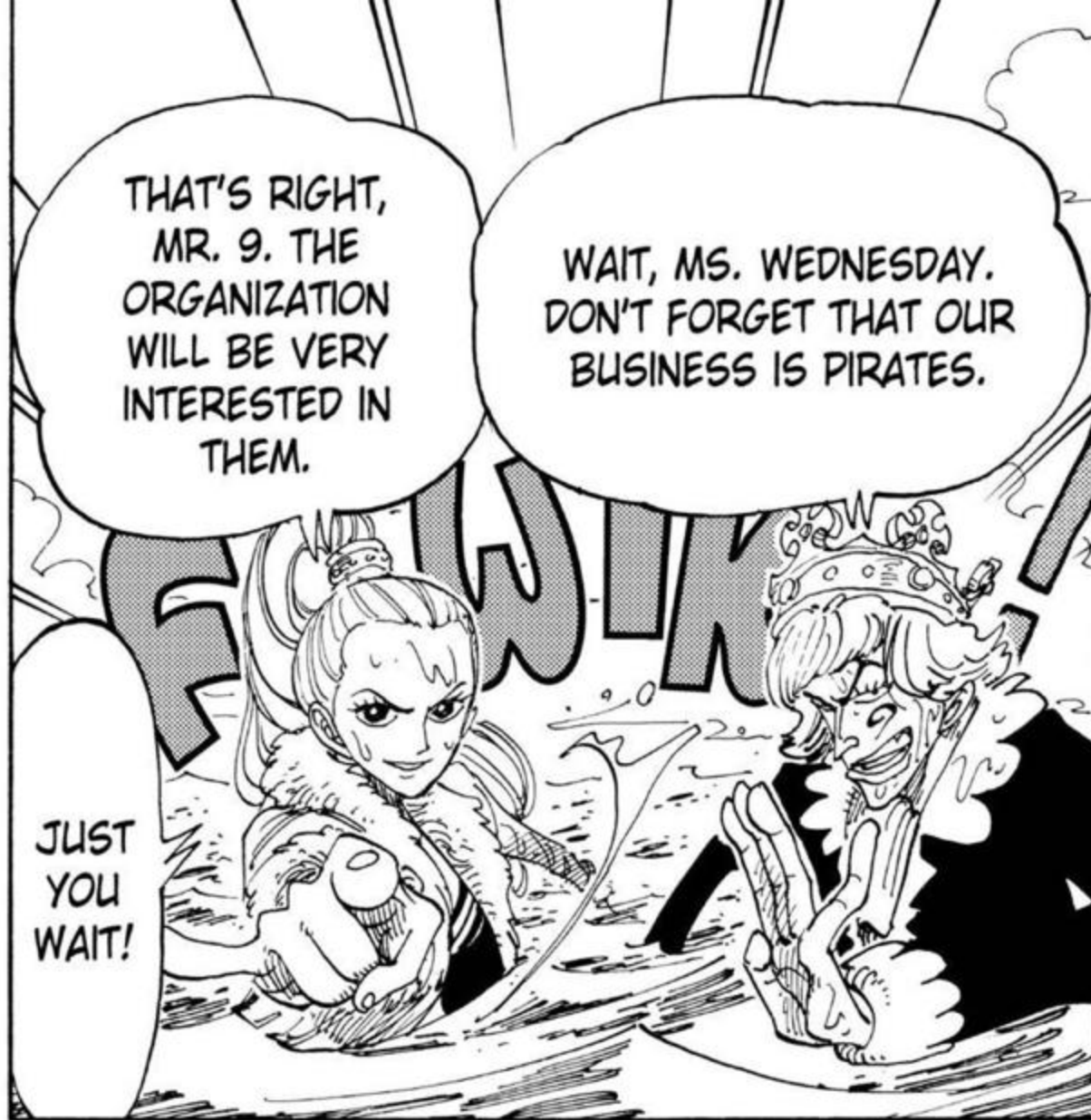
NO! IT'S
THE REAL
SEA, MS.
WEDNESDAY!



THROW THEM
OVERBOARD.

WHAT'LL
WE DO
WITH THESE
TWO?

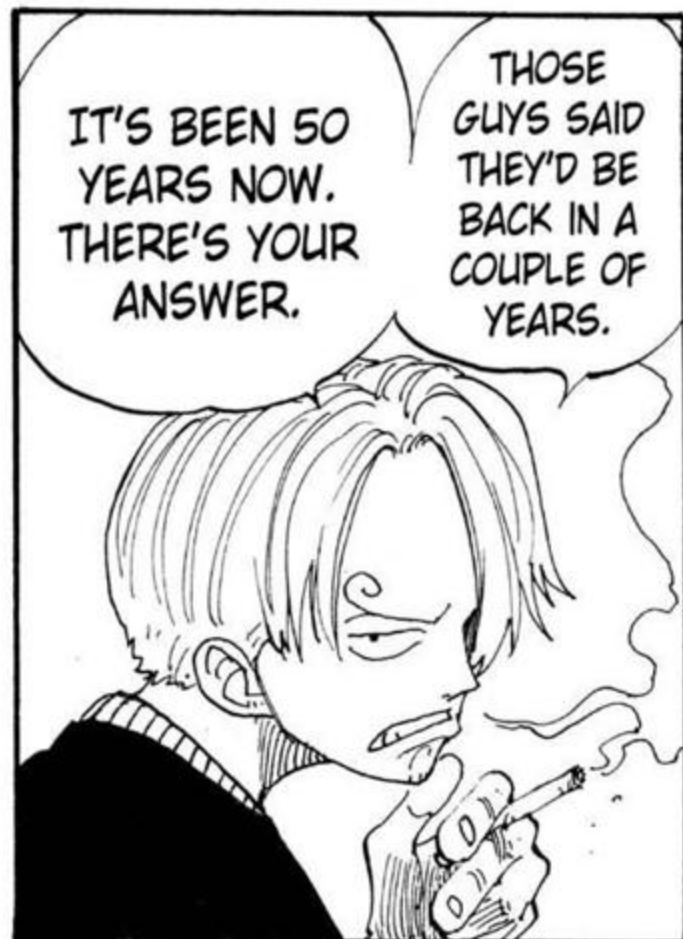
KLANG



BWAAAAAAH

AND HE
STILL
BELIEVES
THEY'RE
COMING
BACK FOR
HIM.

SO HE'S
BEEN
WAITING 50
YEARS.



IT'S BEEN 50
YEARS NOW.
THERE'S YOUR
ANSWER.

THOSE
GUYS SAID
THEY'D BE
BACK IN A
COUPLE OF
YEARS.



HMPH. THIS
IS THE GRAND
LINE.

THOSE
PIRATES HAVE
KEPT HIM
WAITING A
LONG TIME.

BWAAAAAAH

HE'LL BE
WAITING
FOR THEM
TILL THE
END OF
TIME.

THEY'RE
DEAD.

I'M AFRAID
REALITY IS EVEN
CRUELER THAN
FICTION.

IT'S THE
HEARTBREAKING
STORY OF A
WHALE THAT
NEVER LOST
FAITH IN HIS
FRIENDS.

YOU DON'T
KNOW THAT!
THEY COULD
STILL
RETURN!!

HOW
CAN YOU
BE SO
CYNICAL
!?

WH AK!!

WHAT!?

WHA
...

...THE
GRAND
LINE.

I HAVE
IT FROM A
RELIABLE
SOURCE.

!?

THOSE
PIRATES
FLED...

BUT EVEN
IF THEY ARE
ALIVE, THEY
CAN NEVER
RETURN
HERE.

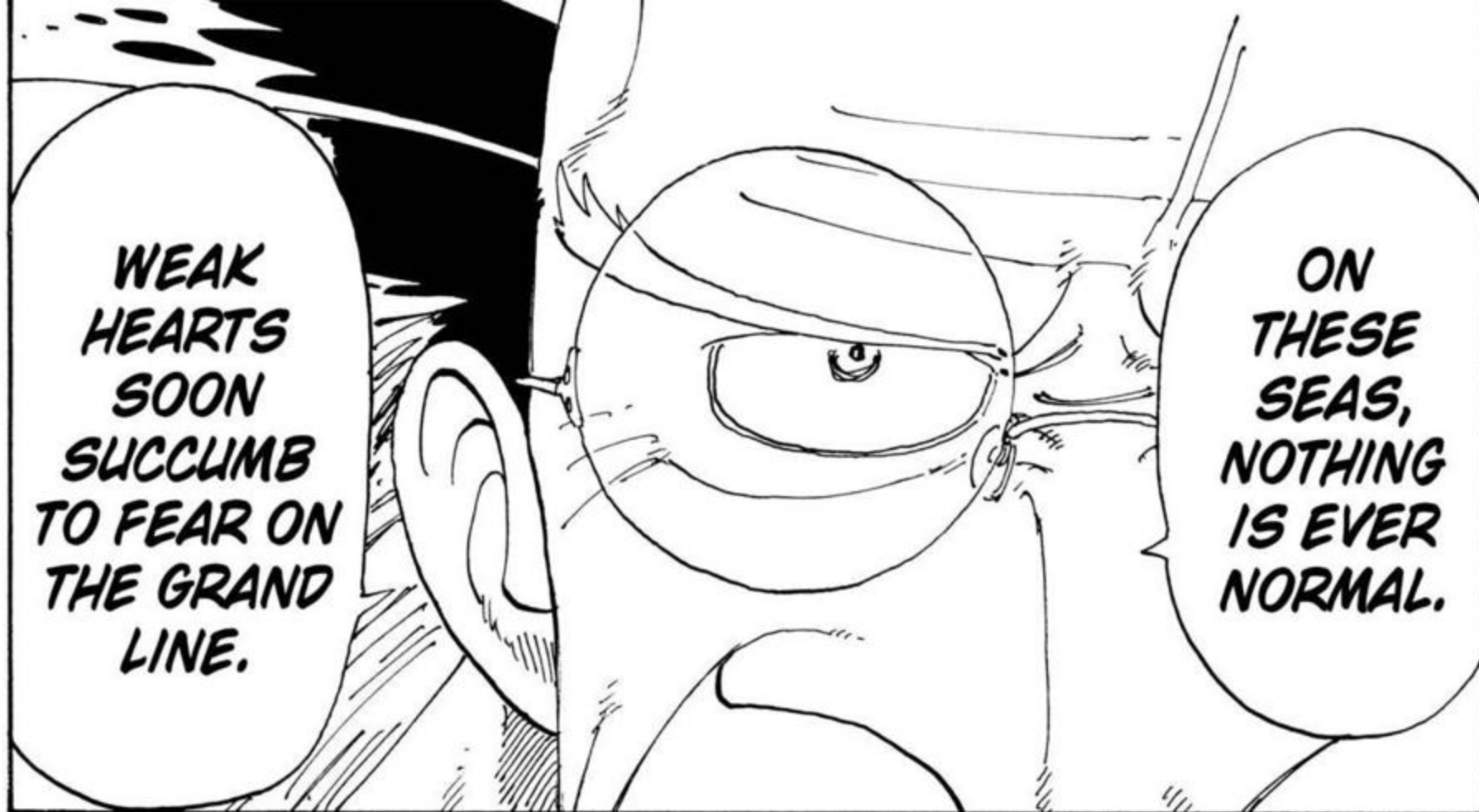
THE SEASON, THE
CLIMATE, THE OCEAN
CURRENTS, EVEN THE
AIR CURRENTS...
EVERYTHING ABOUT
THIS PLACE IS
UNPREDICTABLE.

PRECISELY.
THAT'S
WHY...

...THEIR
FATE IS
UNCER-
TAIN.

AND THEY
ABANDONED THE
POOR WHALE!? I
CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

BUT TO FLEE
THE GRAND LINE,
THEY'D HAVE TO
CROSS THE
CALM BELT!



WEAK
HEARTS
SOON
SUCCUMB
TO FEAR ON
THE GRAND
LINE.

ON
THESE
SEAS,
NOTHING
IS EVER
NORMAL.



...HE
STILL
BELIEVES
IN THOSE
JERKS!

AND
AFTER 50
YEARS...

THEN
THEY *DID*
ABANDON
THE
WHALE!

IT'S
TOO
CRUEL!



...AND
HIGHTAILED
IT OUT OF
HERE, EH?

...CARED MORE
FOR THEIR
LIVES THAN FOR
PROMISES
THEY'D MADE...

AND THE
WEAK OF
HEART...



LABOON,
I HAVE
SOMETHING
TO TELL
YOU.

WOULDN'T
LISTEN?

I TOLD HIM
THE WHOLE
STORY...

...BUT HE
WOULDN'T
LISTEN.



BUT
WHY DON'T
YOU TELL
LABOON THE
TRUTH?

HE CAN
UNDER-
STAND
HUMAN
SPEECH,
CAN'T
HE?

...HAVE
FLED THE
GRAND
LINE.

THOSE
PIRATES
WHO LEFT
YOU IN MY
CARE...

BUT
THEY'RE
NEVER
COMING
BACK.

...AND THEY
MADE YOU A
PROMISE.

I KNOW
THEY WERE
YOUR
FRIENDS...

...





BWAAAH...

AND
THAT'S
WHEN IT
BEGAN.

BWAAAH...

YOU...

...
THEN HE
STARTED
RAMMING
THE RED
LINE WITH
HIS HEAD.

BWAAAH

LABOON TURNED
TOWARD REVERSE
MOUNTAIN AND
BEGAN TO WAIL.

I'VE TRIED
EXPLAINING
IT TO HIM
MANY
TIMES.

BWAAAH

IT'S AS
IF HE WERE
CONVINCED
THAT...

BUT HE
REFUSES
TO FACE
THE
TRUTH.

...ANY DAY
NOW, THE
PIRATES
WOULD
RETURN
FROM
BEHIND THE
MOUNTAIN.



AFTER ALL
THIS TIME HE'S
TERRIFIED OF
LOSING THAT
HOPE.

HE'S
AFRAID TO
LOSE HIS
REASON
FOR
WAITING.

YES. HE
IGNORES
WHAT I
SAY.

BUT HE'S
WAITING
FOR
NOTHING!

THAT'S
SOME WHALE!
BETRAYED,
YET STILL HE
BELIEVES.



THOSE
PIRATES HE
CAME HERE
WITH...

...WERE NOT ONLY
HIS FRIENDS, THEY
WERE HIS ONE
HOPE FOR GOING
HOME.

HIS HOME IS THE
WEST BLUE, WHICH
LIES ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE RED
LINE.

BUT THERE'S
NO WAY HOME
FROM HERE.



LOOK AT
THOSE SCARS
ON HIS
FOREHEAD.

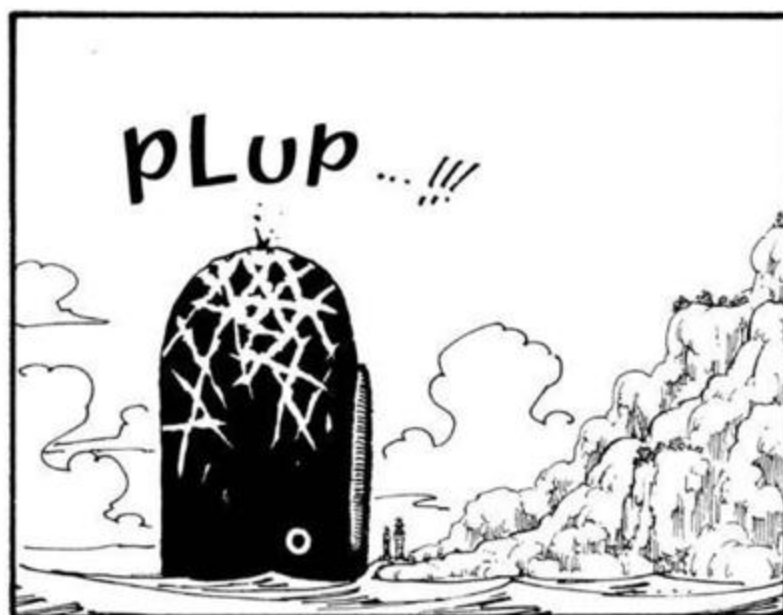
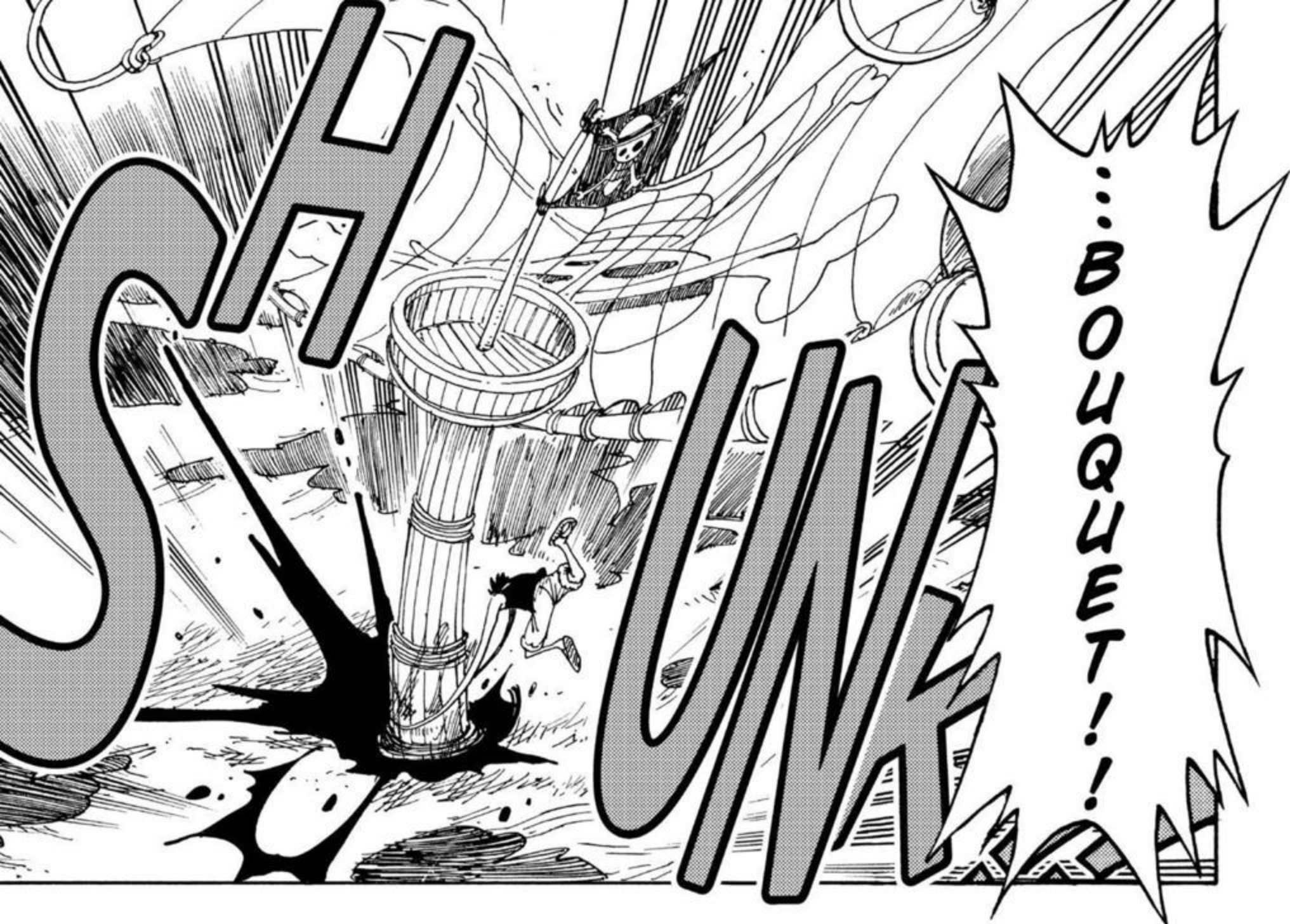


WHY DO YOU
STILL TAKE
CARE OF HIM?

BUT THEY
LIED TO YOU,
TOO.

WELL, YOU
CAN'T HELP
BUT FEEL
SORRY FOR
HIM.





WOOOOOO



HAHAHA

WAAAAA

DON'T
DESTROY
OUR
SHIP!



WHAT
THE
HECK
ARE
YOU
DOING
!?

AAAAA

WAAH
!!

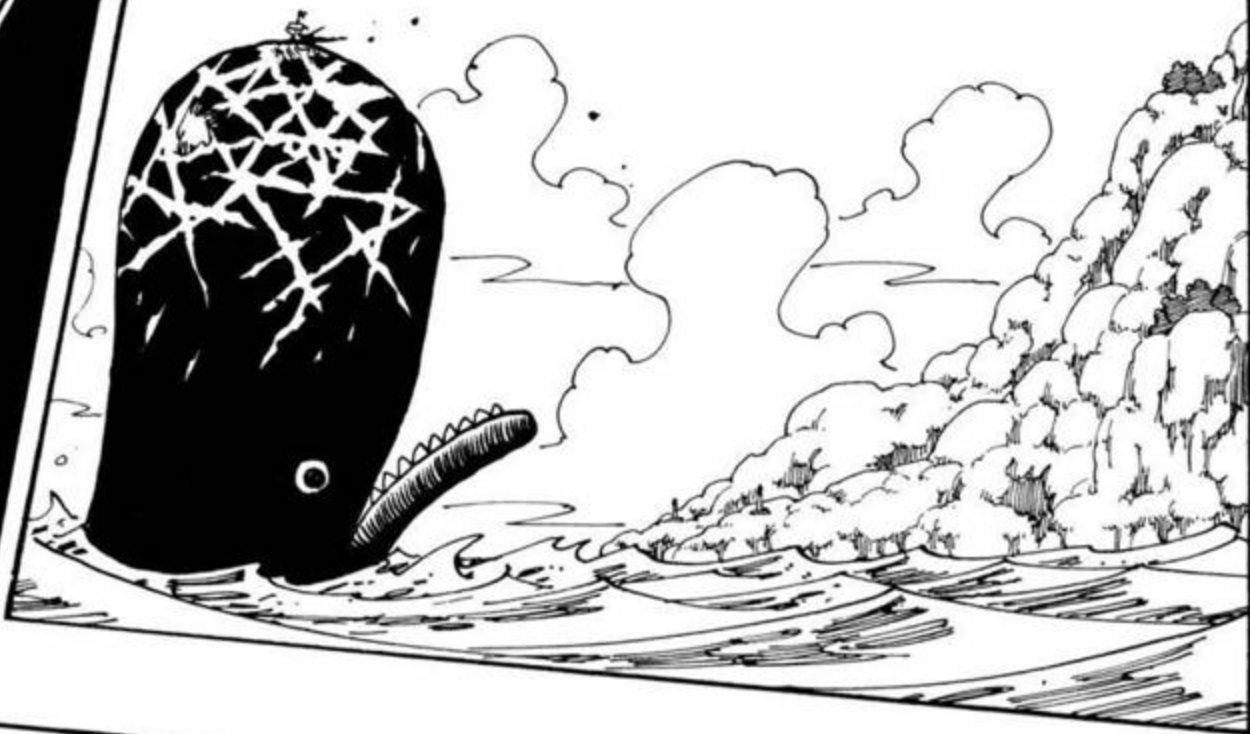
FWIP



FWIP

WAAH!!

DOOM!!



RAA!!!



WAAAH
!!!

HE'S
COMING
THIS
WAY!

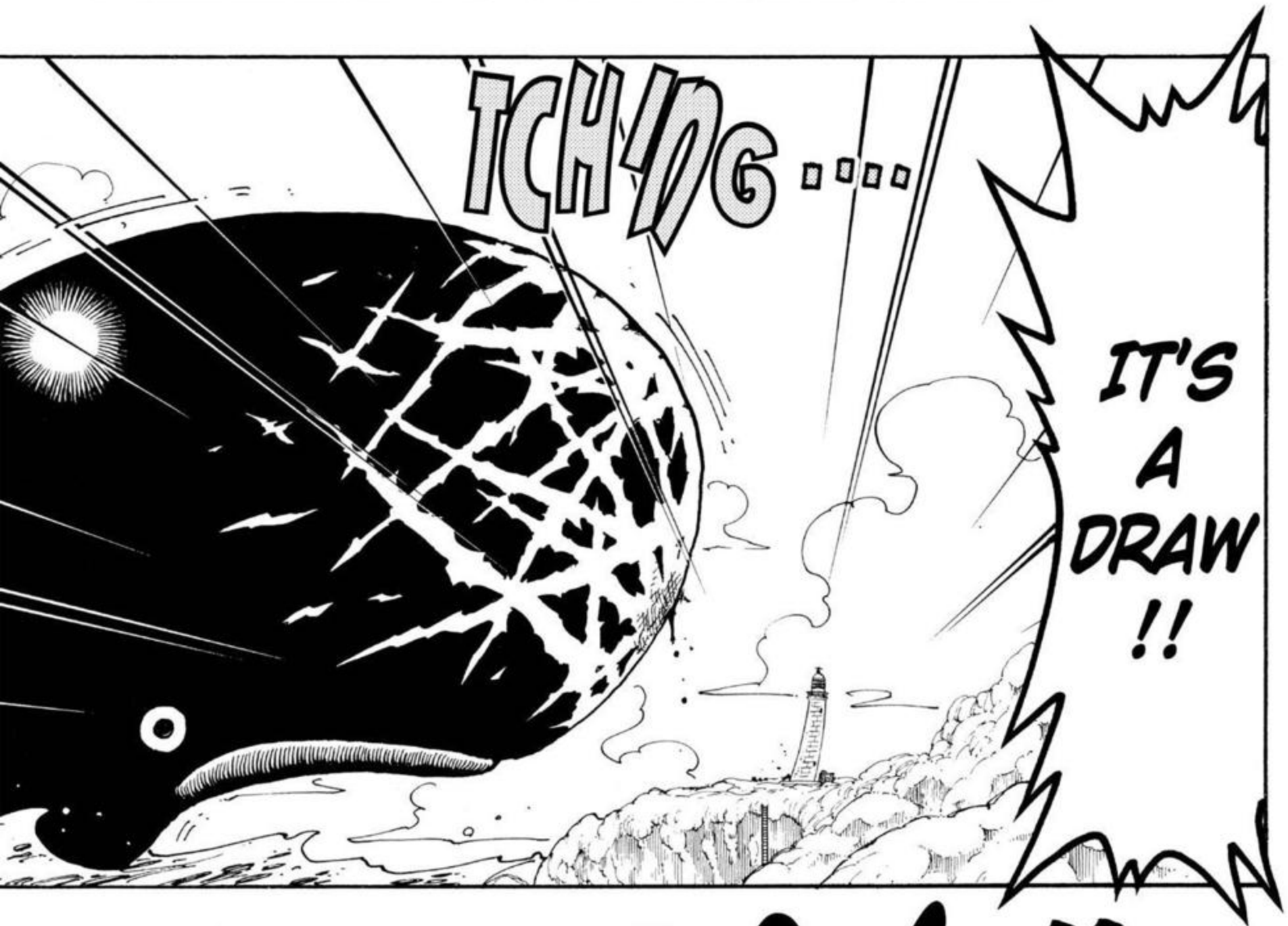
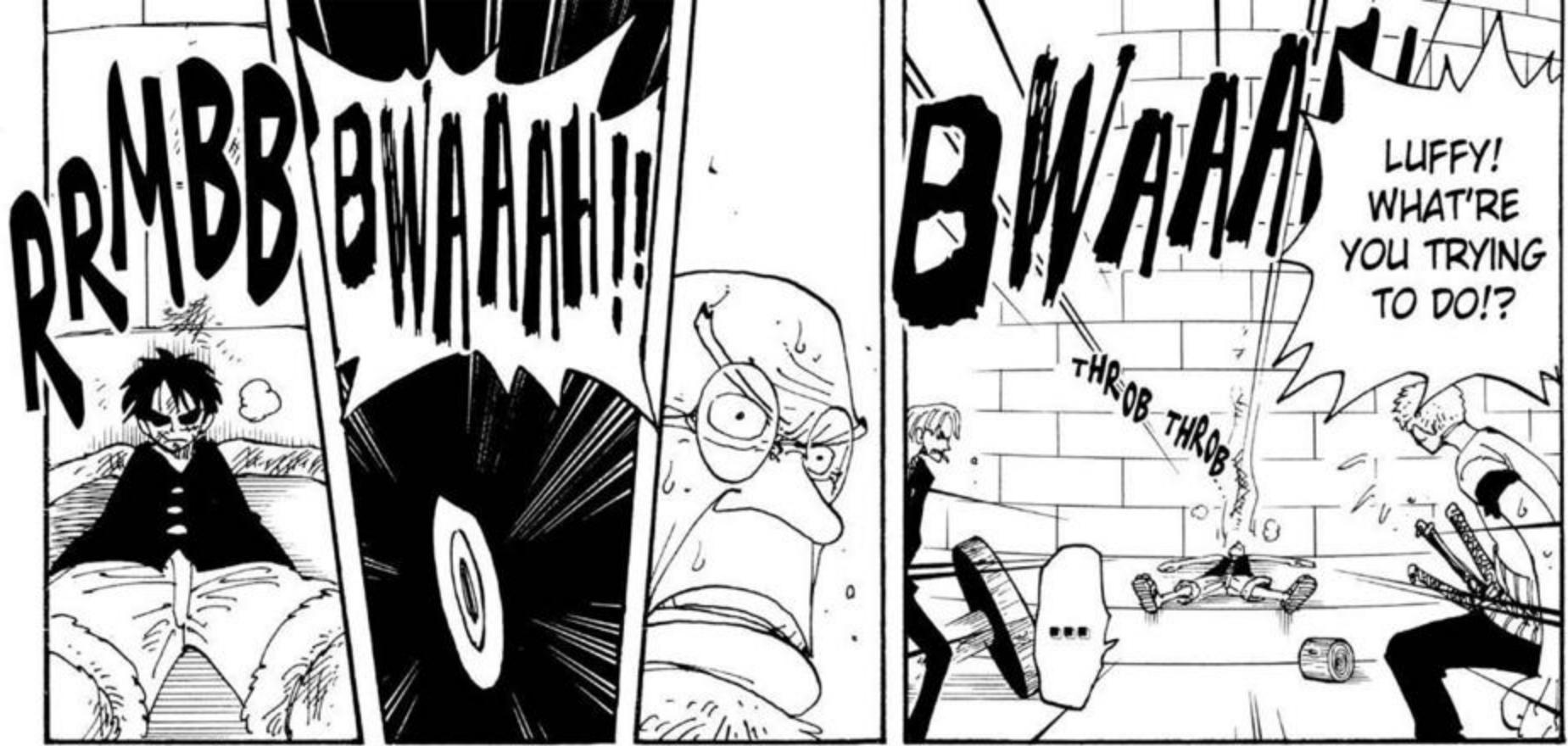
HE'S
GONNA
RAM
US!

AHR!!



KRUNCH





WE STILL
HAVE TO
SETTLE IT.

OUR
MATCH
ISN'T
OVER
YET.

AFTER WE
CIRCLE THE
GRAND LINE...

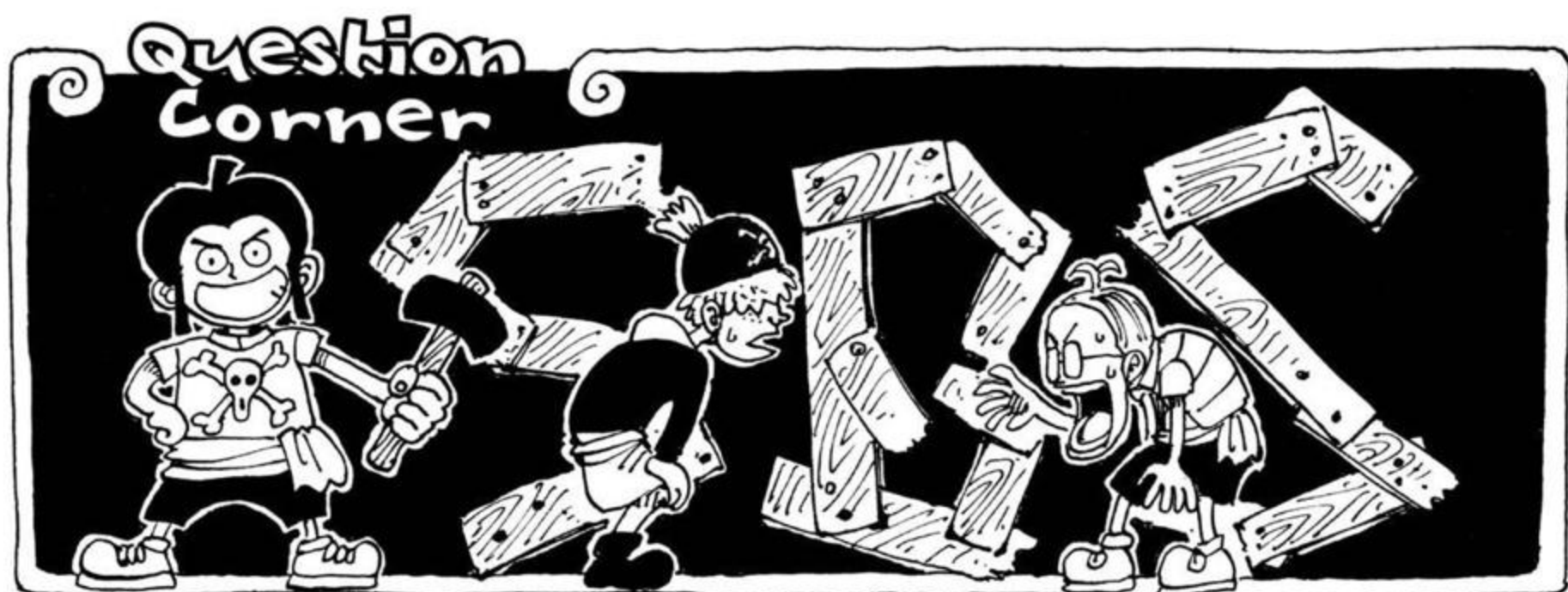
...BUT NOW
YOU'VE GOT A
RIVAL--ME!!

YOUR
FRIENDS MAY
BE GONE FOR
GOOD...

...I'M
COMING
BACK
HERE...

P
L
U
P
...





Q: I'm president of the International Somewhat Cool Hair Federation. Chef Zeff of the restaurant ship has cool hair color, length, and luster--all really cool!! So Chef Zeff has been chosen as the 41st Somewhat Cool Hair Champion! Congratulations! Oda Sensei, may we please have your comments!?

A: Well, I'm curious about the other 40 champions.

Q: I've mulled this over for some time. How...how can Arlong wear finger rings when he's got webbed fingers? Please tell me.

A: He sticks them right into his fingers. They're more like pierced rings than normal rings.

Q: Brrrring... Brrring... Click...

Umm...hello? Is this Mino@nta*? Listen to this... Huh? You're not Mino@nta? Huh? Oda Sensei? Oh, sorry. Wrong number... Click... Beep... Beep... Beep... Beep...

A: It's okay...

Q: (Episode I) Help, Oda Baby!

I think this guy named Yamada who lives next door is a Fish-Man! I mean, he's got gills on his face. Huh? I feel a sudden chill. Maybe I turned the air conditioner up too high. I—I sense something there... *Vwm* (the sound of a light saber being activated).

To be continued...

A: I'm not saving you.